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Identical letters dated 8 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you a letter dated 5 August 2016 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex), drawing urgent attention to the recent developments in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where persistent and egregious violations of the basic human rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination, are posing a grave threat to regional and international peace and security.

I request that the letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Nabeel **Munir**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d' affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 15 August 2016.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 8 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

I am writing to draw your urgent attention to the recent developments in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where persistent and egregious violations of the basic human rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination, is posing a grave threat to regional and international peace and security.

You will recall that I had also raised with you the question of persisting tensions in the region owing to the unresolved Kashmir dispute during our meeting on the sidelines of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in September 2015. I had reminded you that the United Nations had long-standing obligations to resolve this issue. I had called for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir to fulfil the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through an independent plebiscite under United Nations auspices.

The current escalation of conflict in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a direct result of the cold-blooded execution of the 22-year-old Kashmiri leader, Burhan Muzffar Wani, by the Indian occupation forces. His assassination generated a wave of anger and indignation across the territory. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris turned out in the streets in peaceful protest to pay homage to this young icon of Kashmiri resistance, and later to attend his funeral. In doing so, they were merely exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. And yet the Indian occupation forces unleashed a reign of terror upon them. Use of illegitimate and excessive force has so far resulted in over 50 casualties. More than 3,500 people have been injured and about 100 people, including children, may have been left permanently blind by the pellets directly targeted at them.

Indiscriminate use of force against unarmed civilians cannot be condoned under any pretext; and the killing of innocent and unarmed Kashmiris cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. The hapless victims include women, children and the elderly. There have been instances of tear gas shelling of hospitals, harassment of doctors and prevention of access to medical services. To conceal their atrocities from the international community, the Indian authorities have suspended mobile and Internet services and muzzled the independent media.

The situation is a clear manifestation of Indian State terrorism to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. The spontaneity and spread of the uprising is clear proof of its being indigenous; it is also an unequivocal expression of the popular rejection of Indian occupation. Indian claims that the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter is not just a violation of Security Council resolutions and India's international commitments, but it is also a travesty of justice.

Suppressing the voice of the Kashmiri people can never legitimize the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. The only way to relieve the Kashmiris of their

heart-rending suffering is by immediately implementing the Security Council resolutions, which provide for a fair and impartial plebiscite under United Nations auspices. The Kashmiris have been waiting for the fulfilment of this pledge for almost seven decades now. This is also the only path to sustainable peace in the region.

The situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir demands immediate attention. The grave human rights violations by India must be strongly condemned and an independent enquiry instituted into the extrajudicial killings.

Let me assure you of Pakistan's continued commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes of its people and the resolutions of the Security Council. You would always find in Pakistan a reliable and consistent partner in your efforts to promote peace and stability in South Asia.

(*Signed*) Muhammad **Nawaz Sharif**